

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 STR-07
ACDA-12 IO-13 DLOS-09 OES-07 /157 W
-----123224 151958Z /45

R 151823Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9088
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 04740

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MO, ETRD, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET-MOROCCAN COMMUNIQUE

REF: MOSCOW 4258

SUMMARY: SOVIET-MOROCCAN COMMUNIQUE IS PREDICTABLY
BLAND DOCUMENT WITH NO SURPRISES WHATEVER. PURPOSE OF
MOROCCAN PM'S VISIT WAS CLEARLY TO SIGN LONG NEGOTIATED
PHOSPHATE AGREEMENT AND THAT PURPOSE WAS ACHIEVED. SOVIET-
MOROCCAN POLITICAL DIFFERENCES REMAIN AND ONLY TIME WILL
SHOW DEGREE TO WHICH SOVIET ECONOMIC INTEREST IN PHOS-
PHATE WILL AFFECT ITS FOREIGN POLICY IN MAGHREB. END
SUMMARY.

1. MARCH 15 CENTRAL PRESS CARRIES TEXT OF SOVIET-MORROCAN
COMMUNIQUE ON RECENT VISIT OF MOROCCAN PM AHMED OSMAN.
ASSUME DEPT. HAS TEXT OF THIS RATHER BLAND DOCUMENT
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WHICH MAY BE OUTLINED AS FOLLOWS:

A) -- ATMOSPHERE. REFLECTING, NO DOUBT, THE "WORKING"
NATURE OF THE VISIT AND ALSO MOROCCAN-SOVIET POLITICAL
DIFFERENCES, THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE VISIT IS NOTED ONLY
IN TERMS OF THE "WARM, FRIENDLY RECEPTION" GIVEN OSMAN
DURING HIS TRAVELS IN SOVIET UNION. THE TALKS THEMSELVES

WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN OF A "CONSTRUCTIVE CHARACTER" - A RATHER COOL CITATION.

B) -- ECONOMIC. COMMUNIQUE DEVOTED MUCH ATTENTION TO ECONOMIC MATTERS, NOTING "FAVORABLE CONDITIONS" FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC TIES AND SINGLING OUT THE NEW 30 YEAR PHOSPHATE AGREEMENT. MENTION WAS ALSO MADE OF SIGNING OF PROTOCOL ON TRADE TURNOVER FOR SAME PERIOD AS WELL AS SIGNING OF SUPPLEMENTAL PROTOCOLS CONNECTED WITH THE ABOVE. THE TWO SIDES AGREED ON NECESSITY OF CONCLUDING, "IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE," NEW SEVEN YEAR TRADE AGREEMENT. MOROCCAN DCM MARCIL TOLD BOTH ITALIAN AND FRENCH POLITICAL COUNSELORS THAT FOUR AGREEMENTS OR PROTOCOLS WERE SIGNED:

(1) 30 YEAR MESKALA AGREEMENT;

(2) 30 YEAR AGREEMENT ON CHEMICAL SHIPMENTS;

(3) AGREEMENT ON FIRST TRANCHE OF SOVIET INVESTMENT;

(4) 2 YEAR AGREEMENT (1978-80) ON EXCHANGE OF GOODS.

MARCIL SAID TEAM OF SOVIET ENGINEERS WILL LEAVE VERY SOON FOR MOROCCO TO STUDY MOROCCAN NEEDS IN TERMS OF INFRA-STRUCTURE (HARBOR, RAILWAY, AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION)
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WHICH WILL REPRESENT PRIMARY FORM OF SOVIET INVESTMENT IN FIRST TRANCHE NOTED ABOVE. WITH REGARD TO 7 YEAR TRADE AGREEMENT, TWO SIDES PLAN TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS IN EITHER JUNE OR SEPTEMBER ON NEW AGREEMENT TO REPLACE CURRENT AGREEMENT WHICH EXPIRES DECEMBER 31. A FISHERIES AGREEMENT IS ALSO IN THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION, BUT ACCORDING TO MARCIL, THERE ARE "DRAFTING DIFFICULTIES." FRENCH AND ITALIAN POLITICAL COUNSELORS INTERPRET THIS TO MEAN SOVIET RELUCTANCE TO SIGN ON TO MOROCCAN DEFINITION OF BOUNDARIES OF MOROCCAN MARITIME RESOURCES ZONE INCLUDING STRAITS OF GIBRALTER.

C) -- POLITICAL. TWO SIDES NOTED "COINCIDENCE OR NEAR-NESS OF POINTS OF VIEW" ON NUMBER OF CURRENT PROBLEMS. FOLLOWING PREDICTABLE LIST OF DISARMAMENT ISSUES, TWO SIDES DISCUSSED M.E., ALSO IN STANDARD TERMS. THEY CALLED FOR COMPLETE RETURN BY ISRAEL OF "ALL" ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967. MOROCCAN DCM MARCIL TOLD FRENCH AND ITALIAN POL COUNSELORS THAT SOVIETS HAD WANTED A COMMUNIQUE REFERENCE TO THE MEPC, BUT DID NOT RESIST WHEN THE MOROCCANS DEMURRED. TWO SIDES "ESPECIALLY NOTED" THAT JUST SETTLEMENT OF M.E. PROBLEM WILL HAVE

SIGNIFICANCE FOR SPREADING PROCESS OF DETENTE TO MEDITERRANEAN BASIN AND ITS TRANSFORMATION INTO ZONE OF PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. POLITICAL SECTION OF COMMUNIQUE CONCLUDED WITH REFERENCE TO SOUTHERN AFRICA, TO ROLE OF UN, AND TO NEW CONVENTION ON LAW OF SEA.

2. COMMENT: PURPOSE OF OSMAN VISIT WAS CLEARLY TO GET PHOSPHATE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH MINIMUM OF FUSS. IT IS NO SURPRISE THAT TWO SIDES PAPERED OVER THEIR POLITICAL DIFFERENCES IN COMMUNIQUE OR THAT KOSYGIN ATTEMPTED TO DO SAME IN HIS MARCH 9 DINNER SPEECH TO OSMAN (REFTEL). IT IS OF SOME INTEREST THAT OSMAN IN HIS DINNER SPEECH WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO EMPHA-

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 04740

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SIZE THE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES IN THE SOVIET AND MOROCCAN SOCIO-ECONOMIC SYSTEMS ALTHOUGH EVEN HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THE POSSIBILITIES FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. AS INDICATED REFTL, THE MOROCCANS EXPECT THAT SOVIET ECONOMIC INTEREST IN PHOSPHATE WILL RESTRAIN THE

SOVIET HAND IN THE MAGHREB. ALTHOUGH IT WILL BE A
FACTOR FOR THE SOVIETS TO CONSIDER, EMBASSY DOUBTS THIS
WILL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN SOVIET POLICY
CONSIDERATIONS IN THE REGION. TOON

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